

The Power of Repentance Part 3 – Summary & Study Guide – Jan 26, 2026

Summary

This presentation explores the **spiritual power of repentance**, framing it as a **continuous, present-tense practice** rather than a singular past event. Drawing heavily from **Ezekiel 18 and 33**, the text illustrates that individuals are held **personally accountable** for their current actions, where turning away from sin leads to **life** while abandoning righteousness results in **death**. A significant portion of the discussion focuses on the **deceitfulness of pride**, identifying it as a "personal rule" that replaces **divine authority** and acts as the root of all disobedience. The speaker uses the biblical account of **King Nebuchadnezzar** to demonstrate how God humbles those who walk in arrogance, stripping them of their status until they acknowledge **His sovereignty**. Ultimately, the sources serve as a warning to **prioritize humility** and active repentance to ensure one is fit for the **coming kingdom**. By comparing the outcomes of the righteous and the wicked, the material emphasizes that **God takes no pleasure** in destruction but desires all to **turn and live**.

Study Guide

This study guide is designed to deepen your understanding of repentance as an ongoing, present-tense reality and to explore the biblical warnings against pride, primarily through the life of King Nebuchadnezzar and the prophecies of Ezekiel.

I. Definitions of Key Words

- **Repentance:** Not merely a one-time historic event, but a **present-tense reality** and a persistent, habitual practice of turning away from sin and toward God's statutes.
- **Pride:** Defined in these sources as a "**personal rule instead of a divine edict**". It is the act of putting one's own words, desires, or reasoning above the instructions of God.
- **Turning:** The active component of repentance where an individual pivots from wickedness to righteousness, or conversely, from righteousness to iniquity.
- **Character Trait:** The qualities, values, and behaviours that define how a person **consistently** thinks, feels, and acts, reflecting their core morals rather than a single moment.

- **Sovereignty:** The supreme power and authority of God to bring about His will, even by raising up or supporting pagan leaders to make Himself known.

II. Expansion of Key Points

1. The Nature of Ongoing Repentance

Repentance is often used loosely in modern circles, but the sources emphasize it as a **daily practice** rather than a past-tense milestone.

- **Biblical Foundation:** Jesus, John the Baptist, and Jonah all shared a central focus on repentance.
- **The "Now" Reality:** A "one-time repentance" in the past does not guarantee future standing; the scriptures describe it as a "present-tense reality" required to enter the kingdom.
- **Faith and Doings:** Drawing on the Apostle James (James 2:14–26), the sources argue that without "doings" (practice), faith is dead.

2. Individual Responsibility (Ezekiel 18 & 33)

The Prophet Ezekiel outlines a clear relationship between conduct and consequence, emphasizing that God judges each person according to their own current path.

- **Personal Accountability:** "The person who sins will die" (Ezekiel 18:20); a son will not bear the punishment for a father's iniquity, nor vice-versa.
- **The Reversibility of Standing:**
 - If a wicked man **turns** from sin and practices justice, he shall live (Ezekiel 18:21, 33:14–15).
 - If a righteous man **turns away** from righteousness to commit iniquity, his past deeds will not be remembered, and he will die (Ezekiel 18:24, 33:12–13).
- **God's Heart:** God explicitly states He has "**no pleasure in the death of anyone**" and pleads for people to "repent and live" (Ezekiel 18:32, 33:11).

3. The Anatomy and Danger of Pride

Pride is described as the "black thread" in all sin—a subtle deceit that places the "I" at the centre of one's life.

- **God's Hatred of Pride:**

- **Isaiah 2:12, 17:** The Lord has a day of reckoning against everyone who is proud and lofty; the pride of man will be humbled.
- **Proverbs 8:13:** "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance... I hate".
- **Proverbs 16:18:** Pride goes before destruction.
- **The Deceitfulness of Pride:** It is often more deceitful than wealth. Even pointing out pride in others can be a manifestation of one's own pride.

4. Case Study: King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 1–4)

The life of Nebuchadnezzar serves as the ultimate biblical example of pride's power and God's ability to humble the lofty.

- **Success and Recognition:** Despite being a pagan king, God used him for His purposes, even giving him victory over Judah (Daniel 1:1–2). He witnessed God's power through Daniel's interpretations and the deliverance of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 2–3).
- **The Fall:** Nebuchadnezzar's downfall occurred when he reflected on his building projects and said, "**Is this not Babylon the great which I myself have built... by the might of my power?**" (Daniel 4:30).
- **The Humbling:** Immediately, he was driven from men to eat grass like cattle until he recognized that the Most High rules (Daniel 4:31–33).
- **Restoration through Humility:** After a period of seven years, Nebuchadnezzar raised his eyes to heaven, his reason returned, and he praised the King of Heaven, acknowledging that God is able to humble those who walk in pride (Daniel 4:34–37).

III. Study Questions

- According to the sources, why is "past-tense repentance" insufficient for a believer?
- What is the significance of the word "turns" in Ezekiel 18?
- Explain the "PRIDE" acronym provided in the text.
- In Daniel 4, what specific words did Nebuchadnezzar use that triggered his immediate judgment?
- What does the source suggest is "one of the most prideful things you can do"?
- According to Ezekiel 18:20, who bears the responsibility for a person's sin?

IV. Answer Key

- **Repentance must be a present-tense reality.** One can repent at 16 but later choose a "life of hell"; therefore, it must be an ongoing, daily practice.
- **It indicates a change of direction.** "Turning" is the pivot point where a person moves from death (sin) to life (righteousness) or vice-versa. It requires action and "practice".
- **Personal Rule Instead [of] Divine Edict.**
- He used the words "**I myself**" and "**my power**" and "**my majesty**", taking full credit for his achievements and failing to give God glory.
- **Looking for pride in other people.** This is described as a subtle form of the very sin being criticized.
- **The individual.** "The soul who sins shall die"; the son does not bear the father's iniquity, and the father does not bear the son's (Ezekiel 18:20).

V. Exhortations

- **Practice Humility Daily:** Do not be a "know-it-all." Recognize that we are nothing without God's grace and mercy. Strive to play yourselves down and exalt the Lord alone.
- **Monitor Your Language:** Watch for the emergence of "I" and "my" in your heart and mouth. Remember the immediate judgment of Nebuchadnezzar when he claimed his own glory.
- **Choose Life Through Turning:** If you find yourself in a state of iniquity, "turn back" immediately. God takes no pleasure in death; He is waiting for you to turn and live.
- **Identify Pride as Sin:** Understand that most sin (including sexual sin and disobedience) is rooted in pride—putting your own desires above God's instructions.
- **Submit to the Sovereign Will:** Do not get frustrated by things you do not understand. Accepting that God's ways are higher than ours is a key component of humility.

Pride vs. Repentance

The Choice Between Life & Death

